

CLAIMS

1. A method for altering encryption status in a
5 relational database in a continuous process, wherein at
least one table of said database comprises at least one
base area and at least one maintenance area, comprising
the steps of:

copying all records from said base area to said
10 maintenance area;
directing action of commands intended for said base
area to said maintenance area;
altering encryption status of said base area;
copying all data records from said maintenance area
15 to said base area; and
redirecting action of commands to said base area.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step
of directing is implemented in a trigger which is added
20 to said table.

3. A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said
commands are data manipulation language (DML) statements.

25 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein each base
area in said database table have a corresponding
maintenance area.

5. A method according to claim 1, comprising the
30 further step of:
emptying said maintenance area.

6. A method according to claim 1, comprising the
further step of:
35 emptying said base area before said step of
altering.

updating all the records of the column with NULL.

changing the data type of said base area.

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10 type of the base column is changed to the data type RAW.
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15 base area, and for each base area a corresponding area,
comprising the steps of:

activating encryption means for said corresponding column;

directing action of commands intended for said base
20 area to said maintenance area;

copying all records from said base area to said
corresponding area; and
emptying said base area.

25 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said
base area is a first column of said table and said
maintenance area is a second column of said table.

30 relational database in a continuous process, wherein at
least one table of said database comprises at least one
base column and at least one maintenance column,
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comprising the steps of:

35 copying all records from said base column to said
maintenance column;

directing action of commands intended for said base
column to said maintenance column;

altering encryption status of said base column;
copying all data records from said maintenance
column to said base column; and
redirecting action of commands to said base column.

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13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said
step of directing is implemented in a trigger which is
added to said table.

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14. A method according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein
said commands are data manipulation language (DML)
statements.

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15. A method according to claim 12, wherein each
base column in said database table have a corresponding
maintenance column.